

Quarterly Journal of the Socialist Party of Canada

Socialist Fulcrum

For a Ageless World Of Voluntary Co-operation And Free Access
Through Common Ownership and Democratic Control

1980

Vol. 13, No. 4

VOLUNTEER
PRODUCTION

40c

HASSLE OVER RESOURCES



Marriage, Housing and Class.

Women's Working Conditions In The Third World

What's In Store?

Incentive And Initiative

Socialism — the *efficient* society

MUCH OF THE PROPAGANDA work of the Socialist Party of Great Britain is spent before we are able to talk about the better world of socialism, in debunking the host of fallacies which support capitalism.

One of these is the idea that the profit motive in production makes for efficiency, that profit ensures we make goods which are needed (otherwise no one would buy them) and that those goods are turned out to the highest standards (otherwise they would not sell).

This fallacy sees the profit motive acting as a kind of agent of natural selection, in which anything unable to adapt to the demands of commodity production simply does not survive. And the logical development of this argument is that we are surrounded with the very best of goods, produced in just the quantities we need them and carried to wherever there is a demand for them.

It takes very little thought, or experience, to see that this is not true. To begin at the basis, capitalism produces wealth in the form of commodities — wealth which is turned out with the motive of selling it to realise a profit and to amass further wealth in the form of capital.

The first consequence of this is that, if there is no chance of a profit being realised, there is no production. In this situation it is of absolutely no consequence, that there may be a need for the wealth — people may be starving or homeless, but if the production of food or houses is not profitable they will not be made.

One result of this is unemployment, in which the normal everyday poverty of workers descends into outright destitution. Again, when this happens capitalism takes no account of people's needs: there may be millions desperate for the little extra income which a job would bring them but if it is not profitable to employ them they will stand — and perhaps starve — on the dole queue.

The drive to produce for profit means that capitalism is always under pressure to turn out goods as cheaply as possible, since the lower a commodity's cost of production the more scope there is for undercutting a rival's commodities on the market and, if the market allows, the higher the profit which can be realised.

But producing things cheaply usually means that they are shoddy, sub-standard, jerry-built or even dangerous: it also means that human beings, who may be highly trained and knowledgeable, have used their skills and knowledge in ways which have demanded of them less than they are capable of, they have been forced to prostitute themselves in the cause of commodity production.

There have been many cases of this, which have been spectacular enough in their consequences to make them classic scandals of capitalism — buildings which have collapsed beneath their inhabitants or people needlessly diseased or killed, like the workers in the asbestos industry or the tragic victims of thalidomide.

In a world in which we can solve so many technological problems, and achieve to an extent which would have been regarded as miraculous only a short time ago, there is waste of wealth, restriction of production, unused working capacity and sub-standard production. And this mess is sold to us by what is called an industry — an army of advertising men whose job is to tell lies about things which they need know nothing about. And the whole thing is costed and accounted for by a further army — of accountants, bank clerks, invoice checkers — millions and millions of people simply wasting their lives away doing something which does not produce an ounce of wealth. By no standards of acceptable judgement can capitalism be described, then, as an efficient system of society. But we have not yet mentioned its supreme waste — the poverty to which it condemns its people. Commodity production means the vast majority are deprived of access to the means of producing wealth: left with nothing else, they have to sell their working ability in order to live.

But this labour power is itself a commodity and it is sold, overall, at its value — at what it takes to produce and reproduce the worker in terms of food, clothing, housing, recreation and so on. The effect of this is that the working class always live at the level of subsistence — sometimes, perhaps, rising a little above it while at other times they will fall below. But overall they exist at a level of existence which can only be called poverty.

At the same time, the other class in society — the capitalist class — because of their monopoly ownership of the means of production and distribution are able to live, if they wish, in idle luxury. Beside the poverty — and sometimes destitution — of the workers exists the opulence of the capitalists.

There is, then, a division of interests in society today, a class division which means that every social issue has two sides and that there can be no unity or co-operation. A divided society is not efficient — it is restrictive, hampered, stumbling along at a fraction of its real ability.

Socialists oppose capitalism because it is inefficient. We want a society in which human ability is given full reign, in which people can co-operate to use their abilities and knowledge to the full to produce wealth in abundance and to build a world of freedom and security. That is socialism — the efficient society.

SOCIALIST STANDARD JULY 1978

SOCIALIST FULCRUM

1980

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in 1981?

In the new decade?

What's In Store?

The relatively insecure, unfulfilled lives of wage and salary earners will persist, because of the present social arrangement of private/state ownership and control of the means of life with its production for sale/profit and its periodic fluctuations between supply and demand. In such a system the producing majority puts up with normal hardship when trade is good and aggravated hardship during trade depressions. A depression exists, with unemployment around the million mark or more. And since the work force is not expanding, the government wage subsidies that hide behind the term "social services" have been cut back. Among which are hospital services, with long waiting lists of elective surgery patients and some elderly workers succumbing to their ailments before they reach the front of the line. If there are more nursing home fires, like the one in Mississauga where 21 invalids died, there will be more deaths, because as indicated in a union publication for B.C., in many long term care facilities fire safety is non-existent.

Extended care chains have mushroomed in the last few years, responding to the "dramatic" profits to be made on the worker circuit between the last exit from the factory gates to the cemetery gate. One of these, a Toronto based empire comprising 49 homes here and in the U.S., worth more than \$77 million with a '79, after tax profit of \$3.9 million. (Macleans's, "everybody's Nightmare," 28/7/80). Naturally, what is left of workers after a lifetime of producing riches for the rich comes under the blanket of this system's priority. The whole population is organized for it. Other irritations are announced or forecast.

A feature of the last federal budget, was as the press termed it, "No break for the poor." What the minority controlled media misrepresents as poverty are those workers on welfare, UIC or on skid row. The idea is to convince the working Joes and Janes in general that they are well off. It is a matter of skillfully using relativity to mask reality. But surely the vast throngs of what the media calls the "ordinary" people, who can't pay cash for new cars, homes, deep freezes, etc. are poor, in comparison to the chauffeured limousines, country

homes, private resorts, walled estates and the private jets of the wealthy elite?

Of course the poor majority have been around since Sir John A. MacDonald promised breaks for them in an election campaign more than a century ago. When the present Finance Minister speaks of a break or of no break for the destitute, such as one parent families, he has two things in mind, running the finances of Canadian capitalism, and votes.

The majority are materially (and mentally) insecure because the only command they have over goods and services is their pay cheques, which are mere ration cards, limiting them to enough consumption on the average to renew their productive energies, and raise another generation of their class. With or without "breaks."

Happy New Year

The government has promised 10 per cent more inflation for '81. The Retail Council of Canada however has forecast, without being too harsh on the government, that food prices will rise by 15 per cent. It would seem that while trying to keep pace with government watering of currency and rising prices, the workers' struggle in unions and elsewhere to maintain real wages was not a roaring success. In addition to other available statistics, indicating deterioration, finance department figures show that personal disposable income per person employed — which includes all sources of income and payments, dropped 1.2 per cent after accounting for inflation in 1979.

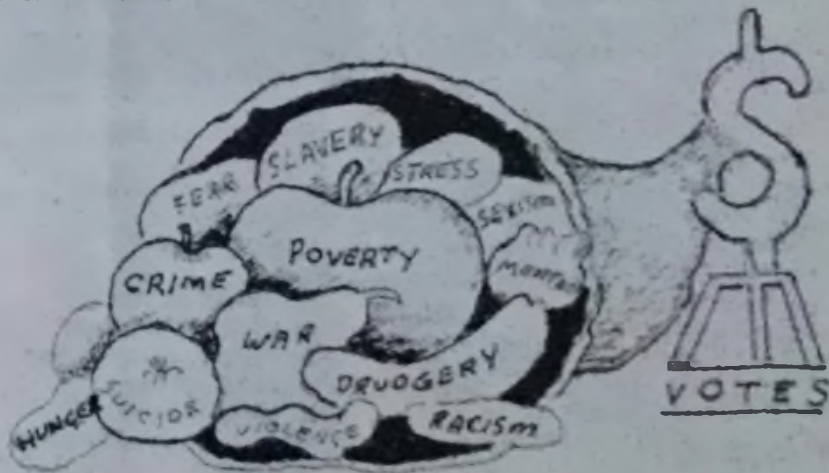
This happened while they were trying. Alan MacEachern has asked them to stop trying, to tighten their belts. He said "living standards must fall to foot higher energy bills." (Times/Colonist 21/11/80). The particular myth he used is one of many in the bag of ruling class ideological tricks, used in good times and bad to reduce the worker's share of what he produces. He said high wages have been causing inflation and lower productivity (profitability). He implied that the insecure majority should rally round the flag and country which is owned by the rich, so that the Canadian capitalist class as a whole can get control of oil and other energy resources away from those wicked foreign oil corporations. Canadian independence in energy is the slogan, in reality meaning a reliable source of energy to keep the country's industries in profitable operation. Lower real wages is intended to mean higher profits so the rich can pay more taxes for their government to use to buy out the conglomerates. A neat little arrangement where a different section of the affluent will own the energy resources and the workers will have to pay higher prices out of lower wages for gas and heating oil, etc.

Yes, More Pollution.

Of the acid rain which is now killing between 2,000 and 4,000 eastern Canadian lakes, an increase has been forecast, because the insecurity of oil supplies is forcing U.S. and Canadian industries toward coal power. And if Victoria, (B.C.) is an example, the workers will have to endure more fouled beaches because, in the words of a student, dumping raw sewage is a case of committing suicide to save money.

Misery Tabulated

An NDP Ottawa report (26/9/80) notes that no major study of the social effects



of unemployment has been conducted in Canada but that, "... a U.S. study has calculated significant increases in death and disease, admissions to mental hospitals and prisons, and family breakdowns for every rise in unemployment." (it unconsciously notes that these afflictions persist *only in lesser degree* in periods of high employment). Sadly, the NDP refuses to recognize that the employer-employee relationship is a division between owners and non-owners of the means of life. That antagonism and inequality are built into this class divided system. The NDP will carry on being basically the same as all the other capitalist parties, from left to right, by treating mere effects.

Crime, i.e., attacks against property will be with us as usual. As will child abuse, by frustrated, overwhelmed parents. The steep rise in youth suicides is bothering authorities, but what else can be expected?

Maclean's, for last January, said that by 1985, 40 countries will possess atomic bombs and described "a wild sleepwalking into the decade ahead." As a political tool of the elite, Maclean's is expected to do its best to keep the employed class politically "sleepwalking." And as a soothing syrup will insist this is natural human behavior. As an instance, as a U.S. columnist put it, if you're afraid to fly on DC 10's, consult your shrink, find out what's wrong with your attitude.

Maclean's merged its dark predictions with a realistic note, (maybe to placate many who have penetrated the smoke screens) by referring to this decade as the one of "survival of the richest," plus, "Is this the decade to vote against 'our' politicians?" (Our quote marks.) This aspersion to class enlightenment recalls a comment attributable to former U.S. president Lyndon Johnson, that the art of (capitalist) politics consists in making chicken shit look like chicken salad.

The pragmatic foundation of the real Socialist parties indicates that the decade ahead will see an expansion of class consciousness by the 90 per cent who occupy the boondocks of this exploitive system. This is the direction of hope, i.e., progress toward dumping this system in favor of the one that will function for all.

On this theme of increased awareness, Strome Galloway of Ottawa, a contestant for a prize in poetry summing up the '70's decade said:

Propaganda for Russian Capitalism

Aeroflot Is Not Just Another Airline

AEROFLOT, apart from being the only national airline in the Soviet Union, also acts as a propaganda channel for the State. In the departure lounge at one of Moscow's International Airports, literature stands have on display a selection of pamphlets (translated into many languages) by Lenin, Marx, Engels etc. They are available with the compliments of Aeroflot, although not perhaps your first choice in reading matter to while away time waiting for your flight call. Although the pamphlets are free, there was no mad rush to stuff cases to the point of overflow. Why don't 'greedy people' (as we are told) act as is expected of them?

ONE pamphlet "How Socialism was built in the USSR" gives a brief history of the experiences of the Communist Party for the period 1933-37. The authors are Y. Klimov and A. Ugryumov and editing was completed in November 1977. It is a real mixture. Misleading statements and examples of Socialism in practice so naive as to be beyond belief. However, positive statements are made that at least will enable various Communist parties throughout the world to know where they stand in relation to some aspects of the Soviet Union.

THE Socialist Party of Canada have always claimed that Socialism entails the common ownership of the means of wealth production and distribution; these means geared to satisfy human needs. We also contend that Socialism is a world wide concept and cannot operate in one country. But, of crucial importance, the establishment of this new form of society needs Socialists. In

short, it will be achieved when a majority of the working class understand it and desire it. They will then take a conscious political act for its establishment.

EXTRA VAGANT claims by the Russian Communist Party and its shadow in other countries have been retold by us time and time again, since the early days of the revolution. An article "The Revolution in Russia—Where it Falls" in our Companion journal The Socialist Standard, August 1918 stated: "... *What justification is there, then, for terming the upheaval in Russia as a Socialist Revolution? None whatever beyond the fact that the leaders in the November movement claim to be Marxian Socialist.*" And yet the Moscow pamphlet trots out the same old arguments and some new ones.

"BY 1932 when the country's first five-year plan was successfully fulfilled, the economic foundation of socialism had been built in the Soviet Union." "The triumph of socialism in all the economic sectors..." (page 7). "The year 1933 marked the beginning of the period in which the socialist reconstruction of the Soviet national economy was completed" (page 12). "By the end of the first five-year plan period (1932) the private capitalist sector in the economy was abolished" (page 13).

YOU couldn't have it plainer than that, but before we admit that perhaps The Socialist Party of Canada have been wrong about Russia all this time, let us dig a little deeper into this pamphlet. What does its author mean by Socialism? On page 69 they tell us: "...The continuing existence of class distinctions under socialism is due mainly to the difference in levels of development of the productive forces in industry and agriculture and also to the presence of two forms of socialist property. Whilst state or national property, with which the working class is directly associated belongs to the whole people co-operative and collective farm property, with which farmers are associated belongs to the collective farms and co-operatives."

YOU will notice that not a word is mentioned about socialism having as its basis common ownership of the means of life. In fact, the whole concept of the

*Here lie the Seventies,
Ten rotten years
Of tensions and turmoil,
Follies and fears.
Of political nonsense
Made worse by the press.
They started off bad
And turned into a mess.
Pause, friend, and remember
This decade of rot.
You helped to produce it.
Makes you proud, does it not?*

J.G.J.

AEROFLOT

forms of socialist property' must condemn this definition of Socialism as one of the most spurious amongst many that have been dealt with over the years in *The Fulcrum*.

IT seems that the 'whole people' are being short-changed. Nothing in the co-operative and collective farms belongs to them. But if we assume, and it is surely not a wild assumption, that the farmers are part of the 'whole people' they participate not only in the ownership of the state of national property, but also have exclusive rights of the farm property.

ANOTHER reason the authors say why class distinction still exists is "the cultural and technical backwardness of the countryside which cannot be overcome quickly." This is indeed a new way of explaining the existence of class distinction. To the Socialist, class distinction springs from property ownership. Workers are members of the working class, not because they may have cultural interests different from those of the capitalist class, but because they rely on their wages and salaries in order to live. Don't knock the technical backwardness of the countryside too much. Mr. Klimov and Urgrumov. After all, it was some Soviet farmers who became the first Soviet Millionaires during the second world war and lent the Soviet Government millions of roubles.

ON the political field, there has always been talk of Socialism in one country. We read about Egyptian Socialism, Socialism in Mozambique and Algeria, etc. The British Communist Party wrote about the British Road to Socialism. The Moscow pamphlet, not to be outdone, says the 17th Party Congress declared "the feasibility of the building of socialism in one country has been proved in practice for the first time in the history of mankind." Do we gather from this that attempts have been made in other countries, but failed? Unfortunately, no details are given.

SOCIALISM in one country is the sort of stupid statement you would expect from people who talk of two forms of socialist property. From the basis of common ownership springs not only the end of class distinction, but the end of the market economy with its buying and selling and its profit motive. The market economy is in itself almost world wide. Socialism is a world solution to world problems and our Socialist message is to workers of the world.

ANOTHER myth fostered by Communist parties is that socialism is only a

step in the direction of man's ultimate goal. As the pamphlet says: "For the first time in human history, socialism, the first phase of communism was built." Again, no mention is made as to what they consider to be the differences between socialism and communism.

ENGLES, in his 1888 preface to the Communist Manifesto refers to it "as the most widespread, the most international of all socialist literature." He went on to say "Yet when it was written we could not have called it a socialist manifesto." And for the reasons that in the middle of the 19th century socialism was respectable and linked with reformists and idealists of all kinds. Socialism and Communism are interchangeable terms and express an identical form of society. It is the communist parties, spurred on by historical developments in the Soviet Union that have seen fit to give them two separate meanings.

THE pamphlet also deals with the 1936 Constitution. It would be superfluous for us to add anything to the following paragraph: "The constitution said that the aim of granting citizens these rights (right to work, and rest, leisure, conscience, speech etc.) was to strengthen the socialist system, thereby confirming the class character of socialist democracy, which rules out "freedom" of anti-national, anti-socialist activities. Unlike bourgeois constitutions, which confine themselves to a formal proclamation of democratic liberties, the Soviet constitution guarantees these liberties."

THERE is more in the pamphlet about the Dictatorship of the Proletariat etc. My thanks to Aeroflot, but they really should keep to flying.

CM

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Western Socialist

47 years ago

**THE APPEAL FOR THE STRAIGHT
ISSUE**

Circumnavigators of reality—like the C.C.F. for instance—should really pay serious attention to the lesson of the times. On air and street and platform, the reformists have reiterated their creeds to weariness. Their constant wailing, that some change must be shortly effected; that the social situation is too serious to be neglected, or collapse is surely inevitable, etc., would be comic opera, were it not laden with the tragedy of utter failure.

Recently, British Columbia has pushed the radical reformers aside, with no uncertain gesture—prefering undiluted Liberalism to its travesty. Rightly enough. Once again, Liberalism has four years or so to distort society on the old rack of Capitalist exploitation. Likely there will be much activity. But it will be in circles. There will be large expressions of humanity. But it will go no further. There may be some reform. But it will be ineffective. Central Banks may come—if capitalist commerce requires them. Industry may be reorganized. But it will be to the further detriment of the working class. Unemployment may decrease. But only if the master class can find a market for the goods their slaves produce. Doles and social services may be remodelled. Not to prevent revolution as the collapse trapezists aver—there is no danger of that—but chiefly to balance the load on the central exchequer. Taxation may well be more broadly distributed. But surely not even a C.C.F. artist will advance that as beneficial to the wealth producers. And so on through the whole gamut of this pernicious opportunism. And no matter what party forms the government.

Consequently, things will go on as before. That is to say, the Capitalist system will continue, which means, briefly, there will be a plethora of talk, of unemployment, of privation and misery, and a fantastic lack, amidst teeming abundance, of the needs and comforts for life and living. In a word, the gradual failure of "something new."

R.
December, 1932

Marriage, Housing, & Class

(Ebenezer Elliot, d. 1849)

But let's take a look at modern marriage in our *class divided* society, where a major problem for working class 'Newly Weds' is their housing difficulties, the basic cause of same being the fact that *their* housing costs are determined by the price of their labour power, (their wages or salaries). Hence *their* choice is restricted to slum skyscraper, suburban 'box' or in some cases 'kipping' in with in-laws. Not for them a town and country mansion with appropriate acres and "breath taking views;" to use the vernacular of the

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for above indicated items.

Acknowledgments

The Love Life of many working class 'Newly Weds' can be off to a bad start through being forced to accept cramped living space, with or without relatives on the scene, whilst the effects on their offspring is highlighted by Dr. Arnold Sorsby in his scientific book, "Medicine & Mankind," (1942 edition) wherein statistics for Glasgow show that the smallest children come from the smallest houses! Here is a quote from that book:- page 190 . . . "In Scotland the 1931 census showed that 44 per cent of the population were living in houses of one and two apartments and 15 percent were living in rooms housing four or more persons. On official standards of overcrowding, working class families in 1936 showed a rate of 40.4 per cent at Motherwell, 40.9 per cent at Coatbridge, 42.1 per cent at Port Glasgow, 44.9 per cent at Clydebank, many mining towns and villages throughout Scotland were little better."

But surely that sort of thing doesn't happen in 1980? Let's take a short glance at 1980 then. On 23rd Sept '80 the "Daily Telegraph" reported that a young man of 22 had received eight years jail for throwing another man from a fourth floor balcony on a White City London housing estate. Even the prosecuting Counsel admitted that.

thought of staying here in winter 'till we guess, neither could anyone else. Despite this urgent need for housing, the "Yorkshire Post" of 12th Sept. reported that 10 per cent fewer Council houses and 11 per cent fewer Private houses were built in Britain for the second quarter of 1940 than the previous quarter. But of course when the "Yorkshire Post" is oblivious of a thing even IF more had been built, than now it could not effect the basic cause of working class housing difficulties, which lies in the very fact of their class position; as employees, not employers. The amount of their wages determines the quality of their accommodation whilst the finest houses in the finest situations remain the prerogative of those who buy labour power, not those who sell it.

According to BBC Radio, (13th Sep '80) "... 25 per cent of all marriages end in divorce and marital disputes are particularly over money."

Mr. Leo Abse, a British M.P. **stated** on BBC Radio, 26th Sept '80 that in many divorce cases "... There was **not** enough bargaining over money **even due** to the TV set."

But why should Mr. Abse, a noted supporter of the Money system, complain about that? Under capitalism haggling over money is of the essence.

Some 19 years ago an organisation was set up known as, "The Mansfield & Salford Telephone Samaritans" in order to "help those in despair" and in the first year of their operation the majority of the calls they received were from husbands and wives whose broken marriages. In view of the foregoing is it any wonder that women sometimes aim at the higher paid signet ring mate?

Here is a quote from the "Chicago
 Courant" of 6th sept. '80: "Many
 Bureaux in Germany say that Old So-
 nants go like hot cakes and women are
 keen on them because they can look
 forward to a good pension."

So, for the working class, 'Love and Romance' is fraught with the business of housing, dole queues and pensions! So, lets take a look at The Hood's, "very rich people" "For me it's that interesting job. The wages Jack, or Bill or Bob. There's nothing draws a London mob. As the money gets very rich people." (Thus, Hood's "Kumanser")

In contrast to the housing and other difficulties of young wage slaves, the glowering Town & Country Mansions of the Elite of capitalist society are glaring evidence that lack of a spacious matrimonial home never afflicts the ruling class. Young Bucks like Prince Charles for instance who recently bought "Highgrove House" in the Cotswolds for £800,000, admitted there is a little matter of RE-decorating same, which the "Daily Mirror" of 2nd Sept. '80 reported as follows: "Experts believe the bill will outstrip the £300,000 his sister Princess Anne spent doing up her country Retreat eight miles down the road."

Seems like Maggie Thatcher overlooked "Country Retreats" when she drew up her list of spending cuts for Britain's hard pressed economy—but let that pass, it's really none of our business, we only want to abolish capitalism, we juggle with it's purse strings.

Another example of those who possess but do not produce, is the 28 year old Duke of Westminster, who—according to the "Daily Mirror" of 19th May '80—"Owns 3000 acres of prime property in Mayfair and Belgravia as well as land all over Britain, the U.S., Canada and Australia"—whilst Lord Newport is described as "Heir to an Earldom and 16,000 Shropshire acres."

As who said Land was scarce in Britain? Oh! Yes, we remember now, it was Professor Harry Thorpe of Birmingham University who complained back in 1970 the land, which he described as a "commodity" was "scarce" in Britain, so we had to put him right on that as he was of course, wrong on both counts. (See "Western Socialist" No.5, '70).

But what of the institution of Monogamous marriage itself? About which Oscar Wilde quipped: "The one charm about marriage is that it makes a life of deception absolutely necessary to both parties."

But Wilde's satire apart, Engels hit the nail on the head in his "Origin of the Family" as follows: "Monogamy, then does by no means enter history as a reconciliation of man and wife, and will not as the highest form of marriage. On the contrary, it enters as the subjugation of one sex by the other, as the proclamation of an antagonism between the sexes unknown in all preceding history."

Certainly too, Human Affection linked to a marriage certificate is a non-existence as are those mystical 'bonds of

holy wedlock' propagated by the burning clergy of the Establishment as part of the 'opium of the people' and to ensure that the mines, mills, factories, land and supermarkets of capitalism remain in the hands of the capitalist class.

One writer who came close to the socialist view of marriage under capitalism was Edward Carpenter and we now quote a passage from his fine work, "Love's Coming of Age" as follows:

"When the products of four huge mechanical forces have become a common heritage and no man or woman is the property slave of another, then some of the causes which compel prostitution and property — marriage and other perversions of affection, will have disappeared and in such economically free society human unions may at last take place according to their own inner and true laws." The words we have bracketed are ones we would not have used but otherwise it is a fair enough comment.

To sum up, the way ahead for the working class is to organise with us for the Abolition of their Wage slavery after which they may look forward to new and higher relationships between the sexes as free and dignified citizens of the socialist world.

Finally we'll gallantly allow a woman to have the last word! And a powerful one it is: "We have in us the Mood of a womanhood that was never bought and never sold, and wore no Veil and had no foot bounds; whose realised ideal of marriage was sexual companionship and an equality in duty and labour." (from "Woman and Labor" 1911, by Olive Schreiner)

G.R. Russell, S.P.C.B.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

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Radical political organizations which have exchanged their journals with FULCRUM for some years past are urged to send a note assuring us of their continued existence and desire to have FULCRUM regularly mailed to them.

Production and mailing expenses do not allow us to mail the journal at random in part, as has been the case in the past. In light of the circumstances, we will have to drop those names we do not hear from.

The Socialist Party of Canada is the only organized political attack against capitalism state and private in this country. With our leaflets, pamphlets, and our journal, we are the only opposition. And these pages are open to anyone who would debate the issues. Naturally no conclusion can be reached without debate and we are here to present the Socialist solution.

Complaints about powerlessness in the face of deteriorating conditions is not a reason for inaction. They are a lesson about the uselessness of the mountain of reforms to capitalism that have been enacted in the past.

Ours is not an emotional appeal. The weapon available is knowledge, a rational comprehension of the nature of society. Most facts and data carefully, deliberately take time out to note, then possibly go further, ranting, ranting, ranting, ranting or whatever, during their time off. It takes time to spend at least some of that time penetrating social movements that the working class have deflected most with. That way some of those votes will count, for the first time.

Reading the SOCIALIST FULCRUM is a beginning.

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Hassle Over Resources

Western Separatism

The media has not been able to conceal the fact that the present East versus West conflict is one between the upper echelon of the oil industry against the owning class as a whole in Canada.

The so-called energy shortage has forced the Canadian capitalist class generally, through its federal state executive to seek a guaranteed supply of cheap oil/gas energy to fuel its economy. Or as a west coast M.P. said in a report to his constituents as he calls them: "so as to preserve a competitive advantage for Canadian industry."

Unfortunately the media has helped to preserve the myth, among millions, that the wage and salary working class has a common interest with the employing or minority class that exploits them. Unconscious loyalty to a ruling class did not exist in past civilizations.

The fiction of a common citizenship is as recent as the development of industrial capitalism, where the dispossessed had to be literate and educated enough to produce with the aid of complex machinery and eventually to administer a complex social system. This process could not have functioned well if the majority with the wage-slave status had been aware that generally they existed for the purpose of expanding the capital of the roughly 10 per cent at the top who own and control the means of life.

In ancient Greece for example, Plato recommended that the chattel slaves be told that they were hereditarily inferior to their masters, because slaves were made of iron and copper, while masters were made of gold. Economic classes were open and recognized. Ancient exploitation was stabilized by a different kind of ruling class propaganda than is necessary today. Most of the majority today who occupy the bottom of the pyramid, have been conditioned to believe that partly through the vote and paying of taxes, they are free and equal partners in the national organization.

Nationalism to a nation persists despite gross differences between the lives of those who own but don't produce and those who produce but don't own. And the gap seems to widen. Naturally, when two sections of the blue chip class develop opposing interests big enough to threaten continued co-operation within the national political entity, they corral workers into their respective camps.

And when one of the loyal politicians unintentionally lets a near fact slip out as Trudeau recently did when he said right wing money men are behind the western problem, the media immediately covers up, and rights the ideological wrong. In the local case a *Times Colonist* columnist claimed Trudeau was "irrational," that "many little people, many ordinary workers, many union men and women, many far removed from the big money boys, are against what Trudeau perceives for Western Canada" (Gordie Hunter, 3/12/80).

The point here is not whether some members of the alienated class are behind the Western oil faction. Socialist insist that reality shows that there is no more in it for those who are than there is for those who aren't. There is nothing for workers who support their masters' quarrels either within a nation or between nations. No worthy wage increases, no meaningful increase in employment. And continue to take orders. What else of relevance do workers have? The important thing is that such allegiance will not change their social status. It will merely cement their bonds as a servant class, subservient to employers for marginal lives.

The four western provincial governments, fronting the share and bond-holding interests of the multi-national oil and gas firms, small manufacturers, retail businesses and large farmers, have the biggest beefs against the federal government which favors the industrial heartland of Ontario and Quebec. The Maritimes also have objections to decades of being "on the outside," being suppliers of raw materials for central Canadian industry.

Now that oil, gas and other mineral extraction processes have boomed in the West, (and some off-shore oil promise on the Atlantic coast), the industrial core wants control, to keep its fuel costs down, to increase its tax base for state subsidies to its labor-power pool - its highest expenditure is on "welfare", \$17 billion last year. (It really is a service for the welfare of all employers, tending to depress wages and increase profits). The feds only get 10 per cent of oil taxes now while the provincial arms of the state reap over 45 per cent. Trudeau would like to see this approximately reversed.

The majority of people, who have to produce profits for the owning class, ought to notice their separation from ownership of the means of life.

Increased revenues would help pay interest on government loans, loans required to keep the exploitive economy as a whole, healthy.

Some of the hard feelings among the opulent part of the West are old separatists. Big farmers, victimized by unfair freight rates for the grain, wholesale and retailers, stung by tariff protected eastern industries which keep the costs up too high on wares they buy for resale. The Liberal governments wants unilateral patriation of the Canadian constitution from Britain with a list of amendments that will usurp many of the powers of provincial legislatures. Which means depriving many of the rich owning section in the West (including oil shareholders who live in the U.S.) of a big portion of their contraband.

It could be an overstatement to note that, to the vast majority of people, the wage and salary earners, it doesn't matter whether the Canadian constitution stays in England, comes to Canada, or goes to Mars. Everything in it pertains to the top segment of society. Trudeau's proposed alterations of it merely mean transference of ill gotten gains from



Womens' Working Conditions in the Third World

At a recent United Nations conference on matters specifically pertaining to women, held in Copenhagen, various disturbing events were brought to world wide attention.

Some of these were: A typical female Filipino garment worker must produce 50 pairs of gloves each day — a quota impossible to meet without working unpaid overtime. Each pair sells in the U.S. for 20 times her daily wage.

She is shouted out, forbidden to rest and to talk even during breaks, and allowed to use the toilet only at certain times.

Her colleague in an electronics factory is no better off. She is likely to develop migraine headaches and eye-strain from detailed microscopic work, and may be exposed to dangerous chemicals.

RESOURCES

One section of the high and mighty to another. Those who depend on their wage rations, who speak the two main languages of the country, who produce everything, and administer society, are merely a part of the cost of production. "Human resources."

The little people do not have thousand or tons of beef or grain, or hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil, etc. for sale or export. And the new prosperity in the West has not benefited the majority. There is more murder, attempted murder, assault, rape, robbery, divorce, suicide and alcoholism in the West than in the East. (Victoria Times, 21/2/80) These social problems do not generally afflict the rich. Premier Lougheed of Alberta, the biggest voice of the oil giants, recently had his home in Edmonton burgled. The real Albertans are the minority which own the means of life, and many of these do not live there, having the option to live in gentler climes if they so desire. The oil rig workers on the other hand, have no choice. Many were compelled to migrate from Ontario's inhospitable weather to that of Alberta to seek survival. It has always been thus with the capitalist mode of production.

J.G.J.

Other aspects of Western separatism to be covered in next issue: Trudeau's refusal to serve his country in the second world war; self sufficiency in oil; the NDP stand; nationalization; function of the state; and more on the provinces.

Neither of these workers are in unions for only one third of the working class in the Philippines are in unions, and fewer than 5 percent are organized effectively or covered by collective bargaining agreements.

Furthermore, women form only 13 percent of the country's union membership. They cannot strike for better conditions, strikes are banned in the Philippines. Documentation of these circumstances has been collected by the Association of New Filipino, an organization with 18000 members, mostly among rural Filipino women.

These situations were presented to a seminar on exploitation of women by multinational corporations at a forum taking place concurrently with the U.N. Conference on Women.

The association stated that while the consumer price index rose by 115 percent from 1972-78, wages increased by 50 percent. Men employed in manufacturing earn twice as much as women.

Rural Filipino women are usually paid on a piece rate. They provide a source of cheap labour when demand for the product is high, or when urban factory workers make trouble by attempting to unionize. They can be laid off without separation pay when demand is low.

Women working in Turkey often have difficulty getting maternity leave. It is common for them to give birth in the factory, because although maternity leave is guaranteed by law, in practice, it is difficult to obtain.

Speakers from Guatemala and South Africa said it is not unusual for women to have to pay bribes or have sexual relations with their employers in order to get or keep jobs.

Several speakers said the presence of multi-national corporations sometimes leads to the closing of local competing enterprises. For example — a Greek woman said 5000 of her country women have lost jobs in the garment industry in the past 3 years because of foreign competition. Workers in one foreign factory wear roller skates to move more quickly from one machine to the next, she said.

However concerned one may feel about the intensity of the exploitation of women in these countries, it must not be assumed that were it not for multinational corporations they would be on a wage-parity with men. This is evidenced by the struggle for wage parity by women in developed countries work-

ing in companies whose head office is there. Multi-national corporations are extremely happy to set up branches in countries that have a quiescent and poorly paid working class, therefore keeping their labour cost very low, profits high whilst encouraging the workers back home (many of whom are unemployed) to be patriotic, work harder, produce more and buy "home made" products. The fact that women are paid so much less than men in their underdeveloped countries gives foreign capitalists a much cheaper source of labour power.

Because in some of these countries political democracy does not yet exist, socialist activity is very difficult. The workers, besides trying to organize into a socialist party should also struggle to organize into labour unions to fight against these appalling conditions. They should also struggle to win elementary political rights.

In the more developed countries the situation is different, inasmuch as the working class, has the right to organize industrially and politically. As soon as Socialism is established in the advanced countries the men and women in these countries will give all the help needed to their brothers and sisters elsewhere. Because the less developed countries might present Socialism with a problem they do not constitute a barrier to the immediate establishment of Socialism as a world system.

In a world wide Socialist society, there will be no need of national frontiers (an anachronism foisted upon us by private property leased society). All men and women in every part of the globe will stand equal in relation to the tools of production and there will be nothing to prevent anyone contributing to the common pool from the best of his or her ability and taking from it all he or she needs for a full and happy life.

Ran Rawlings

OVERPOPULATION PROBLEM? Not Enough Resources?

Since When?

A series of articles in parts two, three from a special issue of the Socialist Standard

"A WORLD OF ABUNDANCE"

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INCENTIVE AND INITIATIVE

You've got to have incentive, they tell us again and again. Without incentive to better oneself life would not be worth living. Capitalism, they argue, offers real incentive and opportunities for initiative whereas socialism would kill any ambition to get ahead. If we knew we had our needs taken care of who would want to work? We'd all become lazy and goof off from the job. General living conditions would deteriorate fast. Why, they go on, even in Communist countries they have discovered this truth and offer the workers all sorts of incentive plans.

Now the most surprising thing about this sort of philosophy is that it has stood up so well through the decades, despite its obvious, even glaring limitations. One could ask some embarrassing questions, such as: You say that once you knew that your needs and wants were taken care of, you would lose all incentive to work? Then why try to become wealthy? Surely if that were true then it would have to follow that your statistical chances of becoming a bum would rise in direct proportion to your acquisition of wealth. Think of the harm one would do to his own future character by becoming wealthy! And what of your children? By making it possible for them to live a life free from financial pressures and burdens you would be robbing them of their initiative, their incentive, their very birthright. They would most probably wind up as bums, even if wealthy bums.

Nonsense? Poppycock? Of course it is. It is that old argument, so beloved by the theologians, about the camel and the eye of the needle, dressed up in secular clothing. We would suggest that those who believe that yarn tell it to the capitalist class, as well as to Sweeney and to the Marines!

Actually, it is the other way around. It is capitalism that robs most of incentive and initiative. Have you ever wondered why there are so few outstanding performers in any field one can think of? Certainly there must be a large number who live in obscurity and even poverty because there can be room for but a few at the top in capitalist society. But far beyond those in numbers are the potential

artists, writers, musicians, scientists who never got off the ground because they are compelled, first of all, to earn a living for self and family. Nor let us forget the potential greats whose lives have been snuffed out in capitalism's wars.

But now let us look for a moment at that hook that is so frequently thrown at us about the so-called Communist countries discovering the value of incentive and initiative. The trouble with that argument is that it is nothing new with them. As far back as Lenin's times the Soviet Union had an incentive system known as the New Economic Policy in which private enterprise was encouraged. Later, in Stalin's times, in the build-up of heavy industry, an incentive plan known as Stakhanovism was introduced. Workers received financial rewards and national recognition by improving their performances and output on the job. In this way the expected output could be raised and the degree of exploitation of all the workers increased. Today, in Russia and throughout the world of state-capitalist, so-called Communism, all sorts of incentive, or carrot-on-the-end-of-a-stick plans are offered the workers, just as in the avowedly capitalist West. Under capitalism—whatever the variety—a few stand to get ahead and it is the few who are touted and whose praises are sung. The millions, however, remain in poverty never quite being able to reach that dangling carrot.

Yes, it will be different under socialism. Mass production techniques will be used to take care of the needs of the population rather than to enrich a few. When the pressures of providing the necessities of life itself are removed all restrictions on the fulfillment of one's potentials will be gone. The world will belong to all mankind. There will be nowhere for anybody who wants to become great to go but up.

From Perspective for World Socialism.



IN THE NEWS

THE XMAS SPIRIT Vs. THE HUMAN GREED THEORY

The winter solstice is one of those times when the "powers that be" show they don't believe one of their favorite anti-Socialist theories, the supposed innate greed, laziness and aggressiveness of human beings. This theory is manufactured and distributed, free of charge, solely for working class consumption.

The number of charities that selfish workers are asked to contribute to usually escalates at this time of year. It is also Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova's time again. Another of her cross country tours is in progress. Her Unitarian Service Committee helps starving children in third world countries, according to she and her sponsors. But the need never diminishes, decade after decade, bringing into question the success rate of her efforts. Actually, there is success, but not among the destitute people allegedly aided. The results are to be seen in the business enterprises which hire the destitute to produce profits.

This year the emphasis seems to be on certain ventures in Bangladesh which require the unskilled labor of peasants who "regularly work 12 hours a day but eat only once every two days and virtually no protein" (Times/Columbian, Dec/80). The powdered skim milk sent by the USC will improve the profitability of the labor-power bought by these concerns, with no increase in wages paid by them. They will benefit through a wage subsidy paid to Bangladesh peasants by the USC via donations from Canadian workers who think they are helping peasants only. If there were no strings attached, we can be sure the Bank of Nova Scotia would not be there like a bird dog, sponsoring the Unitarian Service Committee.

The Las Vegas MGM Fire—ONLY HUMAN CASUALTIES

The second worst hotel fire in US history, with 84 known deaths was due in part to the money-saving neglect of legal fire safety devices. The vaults and safes though, in the hotel-gambling complex were fire proof. All the gamblers survived.

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The General Executive Committee meets
on the 1st and 3rd Wed. of each month, 8:00
p.m., at 1090 Lodge Ave., Victoria, B.C.

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the *Object and Declaration of Principles*
may send for a free copy of a leaflet
which enlarges upon and clarifies the
Object and each Principle.

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SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

OBJECT The establishment of a system of
society based upon the common ownership and
democratic control of the means and instruments
for producing and distributing wealth by and in
the interest of the whole community.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

The Socialist Party of Canada holds:

1. That Society as it presently exists is based
upon the ownership of the means of living
(i.e. land, factories, railways, etc.) by the
capitalist or master class, and the consequent
enslavement of the working class by whom almost
alone wealth is produced.

2. That in society, therefore, there is an
antagonism of interests, manifesting itself as a
class struggle, between those who possess but do
not produce, and those who produce but do not
possess.

3. That this antagonism can be abolished only
by the emancipation of the working class from the
domination of the master class, by the conversion
into the common property of society of the means
of production and distribution and their
democratic control by the whole people.

4. That as in the order of social evolution the
working class is the last class to achieve its
freedom, the emancipation of the working class
will involve the emancipation of all enslaved
without distinction of race or sex.

5. That this emancipation must be the work of
the working class itself.

6. That as the machinery of government,
including the armed forces of the nation, exists
only to conserve the monopoly by the capitalist
class of the wealth taken from the workers, the
working class must organize consciously and
politically for the conquest of the powers of
government, national and local, in order that this
machinery, including these forces, may be
converted from an instrument of oppression into
the agent of emancipation and the overthrow of
privilege, aristocracy and plutocracy.

7. That as all political parties are but the
expression of class interests, and as the interest of
the working class is diametrically opposed to the
interest of all sections of the master class, the party
seeking working-class emancipation must be
hostile to every other party.

8. The Socialist Party of Canada therefore,
meets the field of political action determined to
wage war against all other political parties,
whether alleged labour or allegedly capitalist,
and calls upon the members of the working class to
stand under their banner to the end that a speedy
revolution may be brought to the system which
deprives them of the fruits of their labour, and
that poverty may be given place to comfort,
privilege to equality, and slavery to freedom.

Anyone agreeing with the above princi-
ples and wishing to join should write for
application form and questionnaire to
headquarters in Victoria.

A Letter To The Press Too Much To Publish

THE NATIONAL CAPITALIST INTEREST

The wage-working majority in society would never tolerate the marginal quality of their lives if they realized they were mere instruments for enhancing the political power and privilege of a wealthy minority. To help correct the fact that wages and welfare are only returns to capitalist workers as different producers of profit for the dominant few, a gigantic myth is projected — the national interest. An equatorial mask whose pretence is that all actions, including any socialism, are submitted by us for the common good. Like any myth, a lively imagination is required to follow it through.

Examples abound, especially in this recession election involving sacrifices for the national welfare, in which one party openly declares it will depress workers' incomes, which will improve profits, and the other parties pretend they won't.

There is the case of "our" country's energy independence where inadequate real wages are to be "temporarily" sacrificed by higher consumer prices for "our" oil. (It's ours, why can't we help ourselves?) No doubt the affluent class will also sacrifice by firing their chauffeurs and personally driving their gas guzzling, sound proofed, air conditioned limousines.

Another example is "our" country's financial deficit. The burden of prolonging the existence of those whose labor has been ditched to the extent of pauperism must be lightened, through welfare cutbacks, and civil servant layoffs so that we may all benefit. No doubt the affluent will also sacrifice, by cancelling this summer's Mediterranean cruise.

How about "our" export trade imbalance? Well, there is some hope. A lot of young adults cannot buy houses because of high borrowing rates and low wages. But lower wage bills might enhance the competitiveness of "our" exports, and through involuntary this stimulates a patriotic sacrifice on their part. In the meantime, Mr. & Mrs. Moneybags are expected to buy less expensive apartment blocks as birthday or Xmas gifts for their girlfriends or boyfriends.

Not to be overlooked are the Jack and Jill months long line ups for cars while hospital workers are laid off. A few sacrifices to cut the costs of running "our" country. Through the elderly rich will be expected to sacrifice their personal pleasures on the flight from their winter mansions to their summer villa, they might be persuaded to leave their dogs and cats in the care of the servants at home.

However, the recently polled 40 per cent of undecided voters might indicate that the day when elections are used to solve social problems may not be as distant as it was formerly thought to be.

And a Letter That Made It

Autos That Make Cash Registers Jingle

The recent profit losses of the U.S. auto manufacturing giants, after decades of lucratively looting the labor of auto workers, is reminiscent of the 28 relative piles of junk that Gordie Hunter and his wife have owned, wholly or in part, during their married years. (Colonist, May 2, 1961).

While profit is not a certainty, it does precede production in order of priority, worldwide. No profit, no production. The one enduring factor in those 28 wrecks that Gordie and his spouse struggled with, is interest and dividends.

No wonder that when largess is promising, that the commodities through which it is realized are mere vehicles to that end. Their usefulness to humanity being secondary and marginal. Except for a few expensive automobile lines reserved for the rich. And this is an indication of what could be produced if the needs of society were the sole motivation.

Among the scientific experts who have noted the yawning chasm which separates what is technically possible and what is financially limited is the president of Cal Tech, Dr. Lee DuBridge. He said back in 1961 that the technology existed to build cars and washing machines that will run for 500 years, in pollution free cities, in addition to feeding "every hungry mouth on earth."

But according to Marinas, (26/7/80) the "rust cycle" will leave in contraband position of the automotive temporarily, as 9 million "throw away" wrecks head for the junkyard this year. Meanwhile, it is said that the car industry is now making cars instead of trying to pay for new obsolescence, thereby preserving the liquidity of parts firms and towing enterprises.

It would be easier for the beleaguered majority to do the necessary homework on the nature of this obsolete social system, to replace it with one of common (not state) ownership and democratic control, so that they could live for a change.

Highways For The People

Workers own nothing in the means of production and distribution, aside for their expendable minds and hands, for us to the class that owns everything.

This propertylessness includes such "public" places as the wilderness in Canada known as crown land highways, streets and sidewalks. Another bit of evidence is the cropped recently in Washington D.C. when angry farmers driving 2,000 tractor trucks down George Washington Memorial Parkway to press Congress for higher prices backed up normal traffic for 10 miles.

The term "traffic" became converted to "workers" when the Agriculture Dept. reported "a 15 per cent absentee rate. Undoubtedly other industries suffered similar profit losses because part of the blood source of their loot couldn't get to work on time or at all for that day.

The police, in their basic job of protecting property, finally surrounded the forest vehicles with patrol cars, and cleared the parkway, for the behind-the-scenes interests of the owners of the means of life.

THE SCHOOLING SYSTEM TOO

On a pre-election tour of northern B.C., Premier Bennett spoke to a "Farm-School Credit convention," during which schoolmen asked the convention (meaning the government) to build vocational schools in their specialized areas so that people are not lured out of the north when local training. "No sense in those big capitalists the south sharing the most expensive out northerners when we need them."

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For a Happier World Of Voluntary Co-operation And Free Access Through Common Ownership and Democratic Control

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VOLUNTEER PRODUCTION 40c

PETRO CAN CAN'T



OH CANADA!
HASSLE OVER OIL
THE SPECTRE OF SEPARATISM

Unemployment:

IT COULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!

CAPITALISM & SOCIALISM DIFFERENTIATED

WHO FINANCED HITLER?